SHADOW STRIKES
22
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THE Shadow STRIKES!
JONES, WHIGHAM & FERNANDEZ
SHIWAN KHAN TRIUMPHANT!

SIMPLY EVERYWHERE
NO SOONER IS THE TRAP SPRUNG THAN EVERY NERVE IS TUNED TO SEEK ITS WEAKNESSES.
A JONES-WHIGHAM-FERNANDEZ-PINAHA-TOLLIN-AUGUSTYN PRESENTATION.

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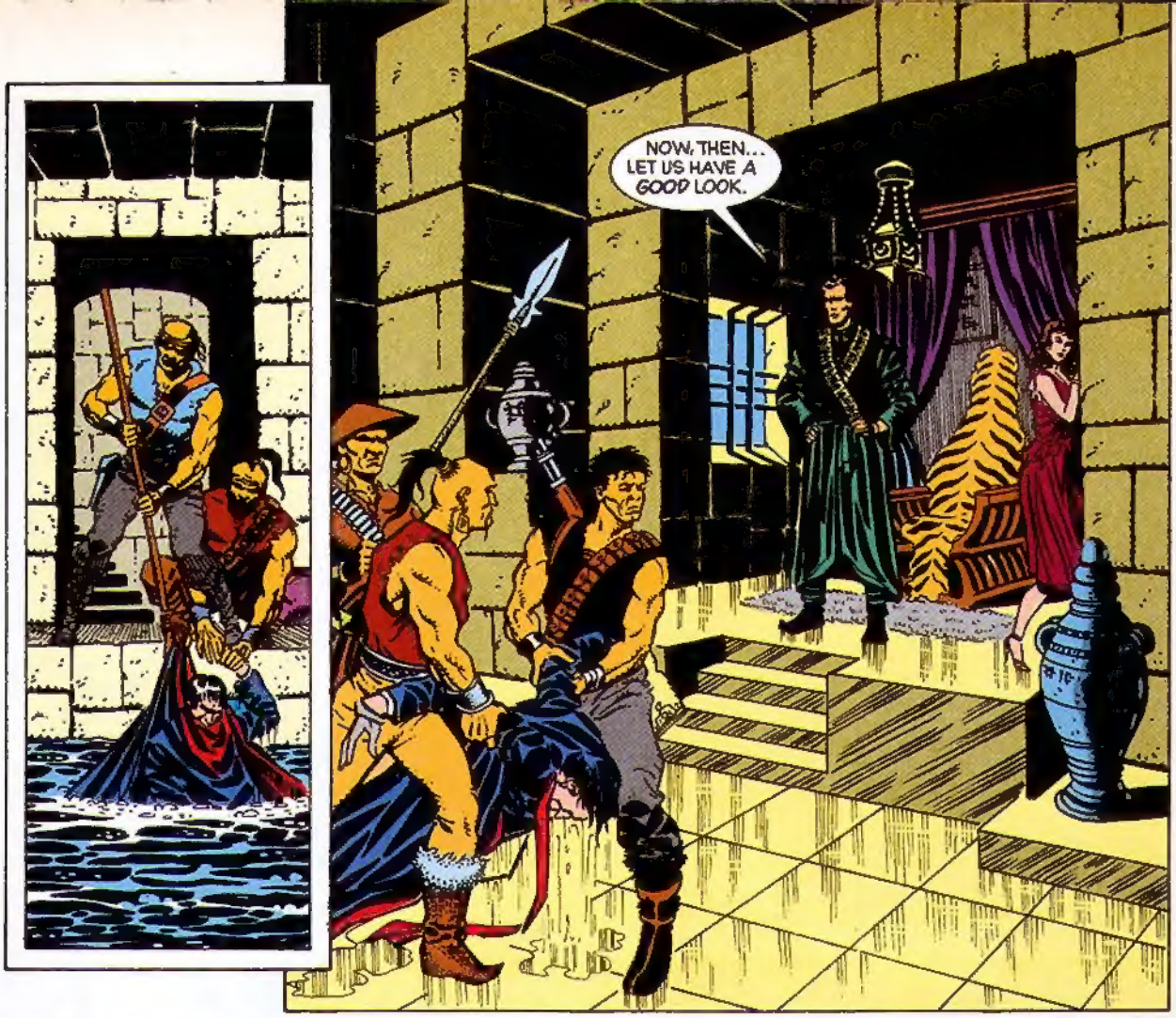
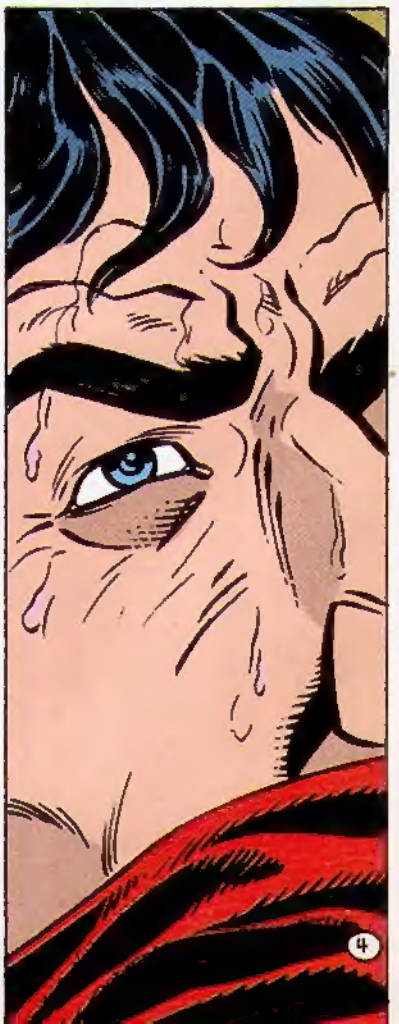
ONE IS FOUND.
A SINGLE PIECE OF METAL KEEPS THE BAR IN PLACE.
AND A WELL OILED GUN STAYS WATERPROOF FOR LONGER THAN A MAN CAN BREATHE.
OH, YES... YES, THANK GOD...
YOU MIGHT RESERVE YOUR THANKS UNTIL AFTER YOUR GOD DELIVERS, MISS LANE.
BWOOSH
WITH THE METAL BLOWN, THE BARS SHOULD SLIDE.
WITH THE METAL BLOWN.. THE BARS SHOULD SLIDE.
2

HOW TO TRAP THE MASTER OF ESCAPES? GIVE HIM AN ESCAPE-- THAT ISN'T.
NO! NO! SHADOW--!
PLEASE, MISS LANE...
...YOU'RE BLOCKING THE VIEW..
THERE, THERE. IF A TRAP AS SIMPLE AS THIS KILLED HIM, THEN YOU HAVEN'T LOST MUCH. AFTER ALL...
"...THERE ARE BETTER MEN TO WHOM TO TIE YOUR FATE."
3


NOW, THEN... LET US HAVE A GOOD LOOK.

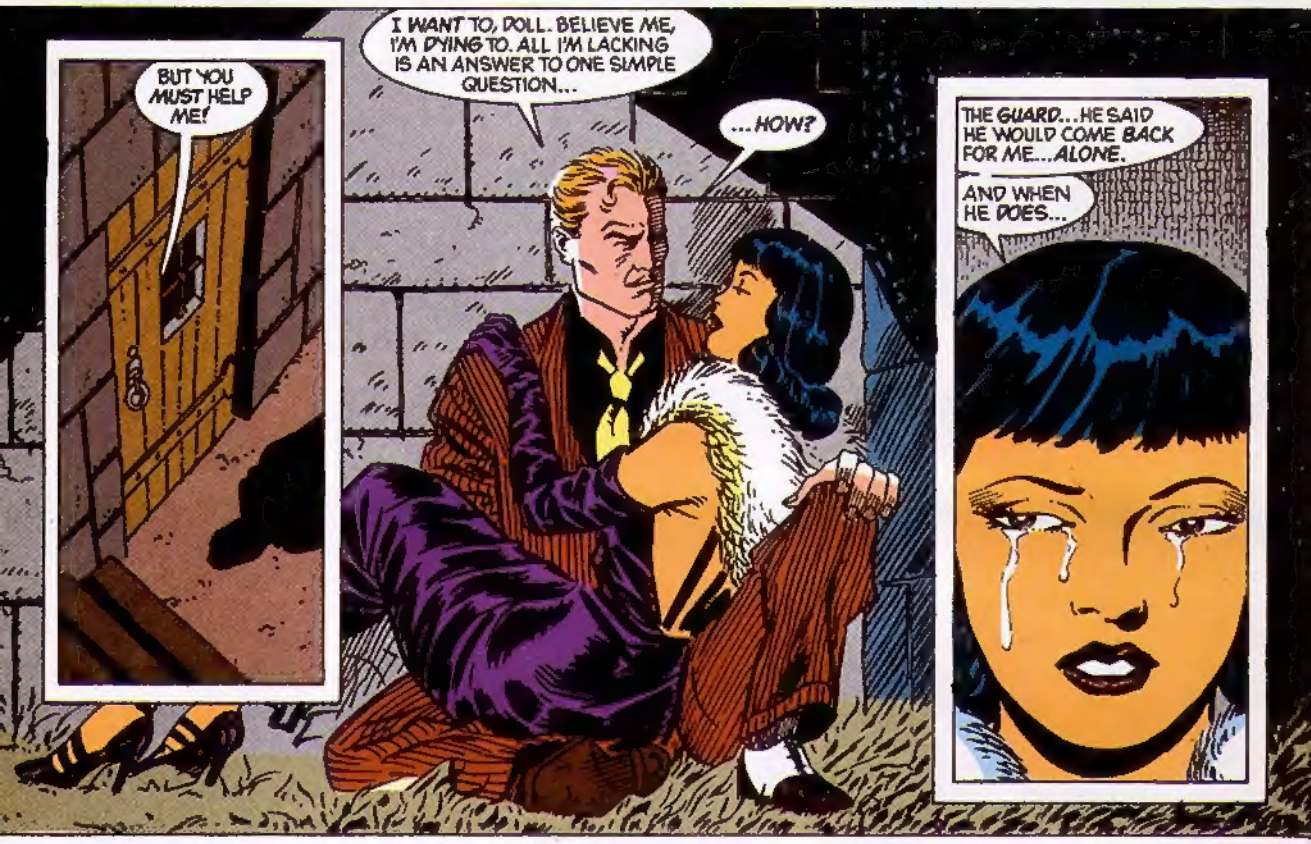
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
BECAUSE I MUST SEE THAT FACE— UNDISGUISED. I MUST KNOW IF I HAVE SEEN IT BEFORE.
BAGOR...

...TAKE OFF THAT MAKE-UP.



GYUHH--
CHUMUL! CHUMUL!
HE'S ALIVE... HE'S ALIVE!
MARVELLOUS, MARVELLOUS.
BREATH CONTROL, NO DOUBT. THE SERPENT TRANCE OF SEN-YOUNG.
BAM BAM
BYAGUH!
OH--
HYRRGH--!
NOW, SHIWAN... NOW THAT YOUR PROTECTORS FALL, YOU CAN FACE ME...
BAM
BAM BAM

...SHIWAN?


BUT YOU MUST HELP ME!
I WANT TO, DOLL. BELIEVE ME, I'M DYING TO. ALL I'M LACKING IS AN ANSWER TO ONE SIMPLE QUESTION...
...HOW?
THE GUARD... HE SAID HE WOULD COME BACK FOR ME... ALONE.
AND WHEN HE DOES...

OH! ALREADY-- ALREADY, IT'S--

<IT'S ULAG, MY LITTLE WON-TON. I TOLD YOU I WOULD COME. BUT WHERE IS YOUR-->

--UHH?
AND THE BOSS SAID I'D NEVER LEARN THAT TRICK. NOW LET'S MOVE IT...
...AND SEE HOW FAR WE CAN GET.

WHA--? WHA--?
THINK WE LEAVE YOU, HUH? THINK WE JUST LET YOU DIE HERE? NO, NO-- NOT SO LUCKY!
GREAT KHAN NEEDS YOU!

FINDING THE SECRET DOOR IS NO TRICK, BUT IT WASTES PRECIOUS MINUTES.

ONCE IN THE SHAFT, THERE IS NO QUESTION WHERE THEY WENT...
...UNTIL THE BOTTOM.
THESE EYES, THIS NOSE CAN FOLLOW THE FAINTEST TRACES. BUT SHIWAN KHAN LEAVES NOTHING EVEN FOR THESE EYES, THIS NOSE.
THE PATH CHOSEN IS A GAMBLE.

TSALGAI CHAGGA!
WHRAK
A BAD GAMBLE.

IT IS TIME TO CONCEDE THE FIRST ROUND. IT IS TIME TO WITHDRAW TO A PLACE TO THINK..
..TO WITHDRAW TO HIS OWN SAFE GROUND
<MAKE WAY>
CHUN WAN

<MAKE NO SOUND, BUT MAKE A PATH, FOR IT IS-->

K-R-R-RACK!
10

IT IS YOUR FUTURE EMPEROR... AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED.
NOW, LET US GET MY LITTLE GIFT PACKAGE OPEN...
...AND LEAD US TO OUR CITADEL.
WHERE...? WHERE...?
YOU ARE IN THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE, MISS LANE. A TENEMENT OF THE CHINESE POOR--OF NO INTEREST TO THE WHITE POWERS IN THIS CITY.
WHAT ARE WE AFTER ALL--BUT WORKING BODIES? LAUNDERERS, WAITERS, RAILROAD BUILDERS.
OF SOME CONCERN WHEN WE ENTER THE WHITE WORLD. INVISIBLE WHEN WE WITHDRAW IN OUR MILLIONS INTO OUR OWN...
...SO WHO WOULD EVER NOTICE THAT WITHIN THIS INVISIBLE WORLD...
...LIES THIS?

THE PERFECT CHINESE GARDEN. AN EARTHLY MINIATURE OF PARADISE, REPOSITORY OF PEACE AND BEAUTY AND NATURE IN HARMONY WITH MAN...
...A FRAGILE BOTTLE FILLED WITH ALL THE FINER THINGS. THE MOST SUBLIME CREATION OF ASIAN CULTURE... AND THEREFORE OF ANY CULTURE, HM?
THIS IS A HIDING PLACE FIT FOR THE GREAT KHAN OF ASIA.

IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR THE "FINER THINGS," SHIWAN.
I HAVE A TASTE FOR THE FINER THINGS, MISS LANE
...I HAVE NO WEAKNESSES AT ALL.
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
WHEN THE SHADOW TURNED OUT TO BE ALIVE YOU WERE HAPPY! WHY?
LET'S SAY MY TRAP WAS A TEST...OF SOME IDEAS I HAVE ABOUT YOUR FRIEND'S BACKGROUND.
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER REASON TO LEAVE HIM ALIVE...
...I WANTED HIM TO SUFFER WHAT HE MADE ME SUFFER.
WHAT HE... MADE YOU...?
WHEN WE FOUGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO, HE HAD A PERFECT CHANCE TO KILL ME. YET HE LET ME GO. AND I CANNOT STOP ASKING "WHY?"
IF HE'D SHOT ME, IF HIS BULLET HAD DRIVEN ME INTO THE BAY WITH SHATTERED STERNUM AND I'D HAD TO CLUTCH AN ANCHOR TO SURVIVE, HAD TO DRAG MYSELF IN AGONY TO THE LAND--
--THEN I COULD FORGET. HE WOULD BE A RIVAL. HE WOULD BE AN ENEMY. AND I COULD UNDERSTAND THAT
BUT--HE-- LET--ME-- GO!

AND SO I MUST MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND WHAT BREED OF MAN HE HAS INSULTED. I WILL LEAVE HIM NO PLACE WHERE HE FEELS SAFE.
NOW, PLEASE... HAVE SOME HOT AND SOUR SOUP.
CAN'T BELIEVE .. BUT WE MADE IT!
NOW--BEFORE I GET YOU TO YOUR PLACE-- I'VE GOT TO USE THIS PHONE.
I JUST HOPE IT'S THE DIAL KIND.
NOW DON'T LOOK THIS IS A PRIVATE NUMBER.
OF COURSE, HARRY.
LULU QX3-19
WUN HONG LO 97
THE COBALT CLUB..

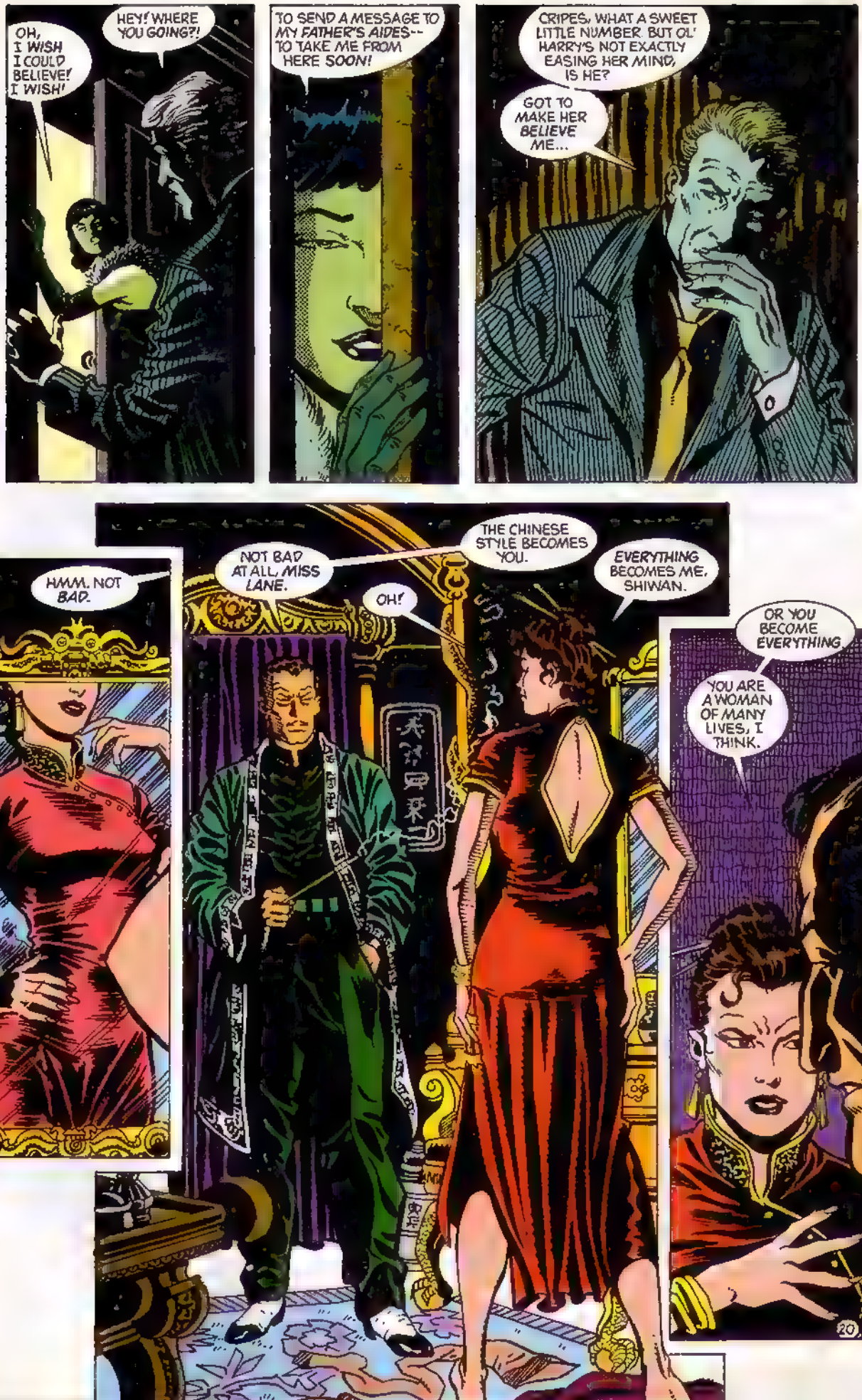
...ONE SAFE RETREAT...
...WHERE PLANS CAN BE MADE. . UNOBSERVED.
SERVICE, PLEASE!
HAVE THIS NOTE DELIVERED TO...
.TO..
YES, SIR? IS THERE A PROBLEM, SIR?
IT'S ONLY THAT... I DON'T REMEMBER YOU WORKING HERE. I DON'T REMEMBER ANY CHINESE FELLOWS WORKING HERE.
OH, WE'RE EVERYWHERE NOW, SIR
SIMPLY EVERYWHERE.
YES. WELL PERHAPS I'LL JUST DELIVER THIS MESSAGE MYSELF.
THE STICK TAPS QUICKLY, IN UNREMARKABLE PATTERN .
COBALT CL
EST. 1839
15

.. BUT A PATTERN THAT LANDS IT ON A PARTICULAR TILE, A TILE THAT SENDS A SIGNAL...
..A SIGNAL THAT BRINGS A CAB
TAXI. . MR. CRANSTON?
TELL YOJR GREAT KHAN--THAT HE WILL NEVER TRAP ME!
I--:URK!--- I WILL! I WILL!
BUT MAYBE YOU GET A CHANCE TO TELL HIM YOURSELF! HA-HA-HA-HA!
SCREE
IT IS A TELEPHONE THAT HE NEEDS NOW. A TELEPHONE MORE THAN ANY-THING. BUT NOT IN THERE.
UB
COBALT CLUB
NOT IN THE CLUB.

BURBANK! IT IS I! LISTEN TO ME--YOU MUST--
SORRY..
..MISTER BURBANK NO HERE. LEAVE A MESSAGE?
THE PHONE LINKS HIM TO ONE MORE PLACE WHERE LAMONT CRANSTON CAN ACT UNSEEN--
5¢
--THE CRANSTON MANSION!
RING RING
GREAT KHAN'S RESIDENCE.

THERE IS NOTHING TO DO BUT DELIVER HIS MESSAGE...
Hi Hatch BRT-9113
..AND RETREAT TO THE ONE PLACE THAT NO ENEMY CAN EVER FIND.
FIFTH
TAILOR
THIS IS YOUR PLACE? I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOUR DADDY WAS SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL!
HE IS! BUT WE ARE HUNTED BY SHIWAN... AND THESE GOOD, POOR PEOPLE OFFER TO PROTECT ME UNTIL MY FATHER'S MEN CAN COME FOR ME!
THEY EVEN GIVE A PRIVATE CHAMBER JUST FOR ME..
..OR JUST FOR US.

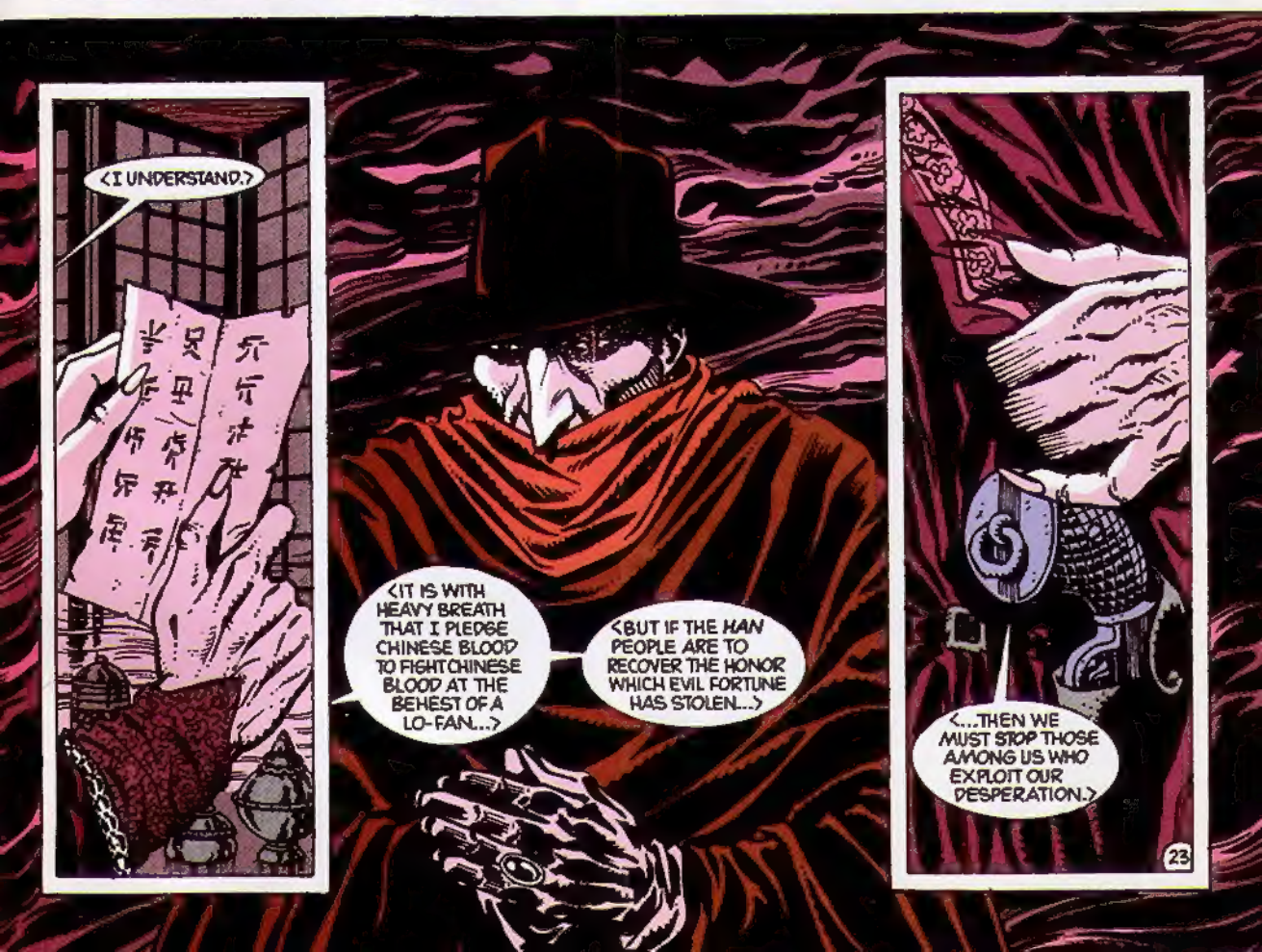
MMM, YOU KNOW-- I COULD GET USED TO HUDDLING HERE.
AH! YOU ARE SO BRAVE! YET--ALL MY LIFE I AM TAUGHT TO FEAR AMERICAN MEN!
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEAR OLD HARRY, DOLL.
I KNOW. AND...AND I KNOW NOW WHY I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT SO. BECAUSE MY FAMILY FEARS THAT I MIGHT FIND A MAN LIKE YOU...SO ATTRACTIVE.
AND YOU, HARRY-- HAVE YOU BEEN TOLD TERRIBLE THINGS ABOUT CHINESE WOMEN?
WELL...I'VE BEEN TOLD THINGS. BUT NOT EXACTLY TERRIBLE...
AH, IF ONLY WE COULD MEET WHEN IT IS NOT SUCH A BAD TIME
HEY, HEY. WE'LL BE OKAY. I'LL LOOK OUT FOR YOU, DOLL. AND MY BOSS... HELL, HE CAN HANDLE ANYTHING!
IF ONLY I COULD BELIEVE THIS! IF ONLY I COULD BELIEVE THAT ANYONE CAN STOP SHIWAN KHAN!
LISTEN, SWEETIE, I'M TELLING YOU. THE SHADOW'S--
YES?
--WELL... I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY. JUST BELIEVE ME THAT HE CAN--
19


OH, I WISH I COULD BELIEVE! I WISH!
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING?!
TO SEND A MESSAGE TO MY FATHER'S AIDES-- TO TAKE ME FROM HERE SOON!
CRIPES, WHAT A SWEET LITTLE NUMBER. BUT OL' HARRY'S NOT EXACTLY EASING HER MIND, IS HE?
GOT TO MAKE HER BELIEVE ME...
HMM. NOT BAD.
NOT BAD AT ALL, MISS LANE.
OH!
THE CHINESE STYLE BECOMES YOU.
EVERYTHING BECOMES ME, SHIWAN.
OR YOU BECOME EVERYTHING.
YOU ARE A WOMAN OF MANY LIVES, I THINK.
20

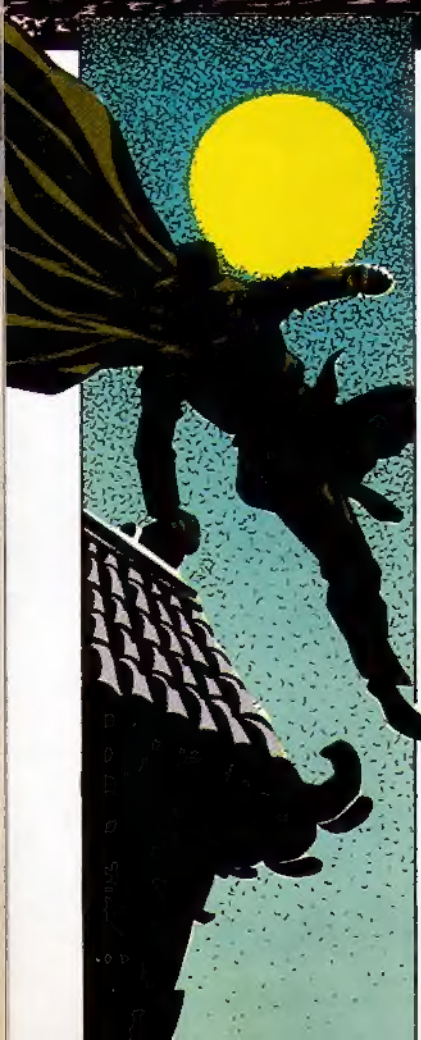
I UNDERSTAND YOU. I TOO HAVE LIVED MANY LIVES MANY CULTURES. MANY IDENTITIES...
LIKE YOUR FRIEND THE SHADOW, HM?
I WAS WAITING FOR THAT. IS THAT WHY YOU CAME HERE-- WHY YOU DID ALL THIS? TO PUNISH HIM?
NO, NO, NO, NO. I'VE CONCLUDED MY BUSINESS HERE... THE SECRET PURCHASE OF A HUNDRED WAR PLANES FOR MY HIDDEN HORDE IN CHINA.
BUT I CANNOT LEAVE UNTIL I'VE--
GONG
GONG
YOU'LL PARDON ME, MISS LANE. I MUST GO.
BUT ENJOY THE DIM-SUM IN MY ABSENCE. IT'S A DELIGHT THE POOR WEST HAS YET TO DISCOVER.
<GREAT KHAN! GREAT KHAN!>
21

〈QUIET! AWAY FROM THE BOAT. HAVE YOU LEARNED WHAT I ASKED?〉
〈I HAVE HIM PREPARED TO TELL EVERYTHING HE KNOWS...〉
〈...BUT I CANNOT SUFFER THIS ANY MORE! FORCING MY TEARS, PLAYING TO HIS DISEASED ROMANTIC DREAMS, HIS SAD AMERICAN NEED FOR SEXUAL MASTERY, HIS--〉
〈LISTEN TO ME, WU HA!〉
〈WE CANNOT DEFEAT THE OCCIDENTALS WITH FORCE-- BUT ONLY WITH THEIR OWN STUPID VANITY. TO CONTROL THEM, WE MUST BE WHAT THEY WISH US TO BE.〉
〈IF THEY WISH OUR MEN TO BE SUBHUMAN BRUTES OR EFFETE, GIGGLING GROVELLERS, THEN WE WILL BE SUCH.〉
〈AND IF THEY WISH OUR WOMEN TO BE WEEPING VICTIMS OR CHILDLIKE TOYS...THEN YOU WILL BE THAT.〉
〈YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE THE DIGNITY OF THE EAST...INSIDE!〉
〈NOW GO DO WHATEVER YOU MUST...TO LEARN WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT THE SHADOW.〉
〈YES, GREAT KHAN.〉
〈FUTURE TRIUMPHS WILL HELP US LAUGH AT PAST INDIGNITIES〉

〈FUTURE TRIUMPHS...〉
〈...FUTURE TRIUMPHS.〉
HIYA, DOLL. GLAD YOU CAME BACK.
I WAS AFRAID WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FINISH WHAT WE STARTED.


〈I UNDERSTAND.〉
〈IT IS WITH HEAVY BREATH THAT I PLEDGE CHINESE BLOOD TO FIGHT CHINESE BLOOD AT THE BEHEST OF A LO-FAN...〉
〈BUT IF THE HAN PEOPLE ARE TO RECOVER THE HONOR WHICH EVIL FORTUNE HAS STOLEN...〉
〈...THEN WE MUST STOP THOSE AMONG US WHO EXPLOIT OUR DESPERATION.〉

<AT YOUR SIGNAL, BLACK AVENGER. THE TONGS WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.>
<MY GRATITUDE, AUGUST YAT SOON. LET US HOPE FOR GOOD FORTUNE.>

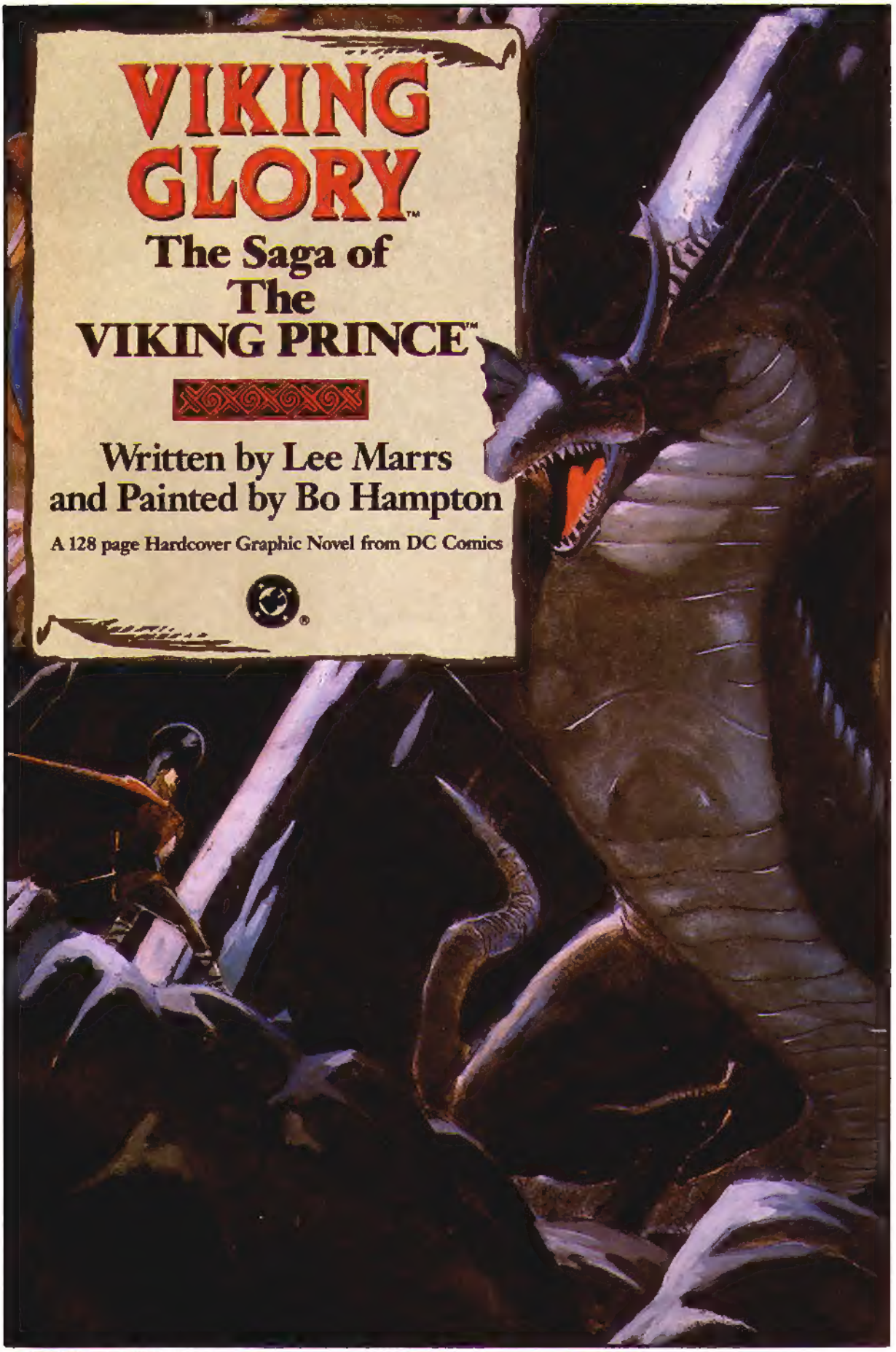


THESE STREETS ARE PASSAGES FOR MOST.

ONLY ENTRANCES FOR SOME.

FOR SOME WHO KNOW THE OLD PASSAGES BENEATH THE CITY.
24

SOME WHO CARVE THEIR OWN PASSAGES INTO THE BOWELS OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.
WHO INSTALL THEIR SANCTUMS IN THE CONCRETE POCKETS OF THE CITY...
...IN THE SPACES WHERE AIR NEVER MOVES AND SUN NEVER REACHES...
...IN THE SPACES THAT NO ONE CAN EVER FIND.
CLAUDE FELLOWS!
TO BE CONTINUED!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